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81-1014/2



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

APR 15 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Unauthorized Disclosures of Classified Information

I want to emphasize to all the employees of this Department that unauthorized disclosures of classified information--whether intentional or inadvertent--will not be tolerated.

Past disclosures have damaged our relations with other governments, reduced our lead in weapons technology, and resulted in the loss of irreplaceable intelligence sources.

It is essential, therefore, that in all dealings with persons not authorized access, we take care to avoid comments that refer to, or are based upon, classified information, unless prior clearance has been obtained in accordance with established procedures. Indeed, even unclassified matters should be treated with circumspection when they relate to sensitive internal deliberations.

There should be no need to remind anyone that the disclosure of classified information without authorization may constitute a violation of the espionage statutes. Certainly it constitutes a violation of established security procedures, as well as a breach of the responsibility we all have to protect sensitive information entrusted to us. It will be the policy of this department to deal firmly and promptly with all employees who betray this responsibility.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Frank C. Carlucci".
Frank C. Carlucci

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